

JAMES RIVER SWCD MONTHLY MEETING
Board of Directors Meeting
January 3, 2008

James River Soil and Water Conservation District held its monthly board meeting on January 3, 2008, at the Prince George County Human Services building. In Chairman Bagshaw's absence, Mike Likins called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. Attendees were:

Directors: Margie Davis, Chris Elko, W. D. Kreider, Mike Likins, Charlie Skalsky
Associates: George Beadles, Scott Reiter
Staff: Linda McAllister, Suzanne Thore, John Smith
Agency Partners: Carrie Hagin (DCR), Anthony Howell (NRCS)
Absent: Don Bagshaw, John Kinch, Dan Lee
Guests: Jerry Skalsky (P.G. Board of Supervisors), Patrick Vincent (RC&D)

Mike Likins introduced the newly elected directors from Chesterfield County, Chris Elko and Margie Davis, and acknowledged Charles Skalsky from Prince George.

Nominations of Officers for year 2008

On behalf of the Nominating Committee consisting of Mike Likins, Charles Skalsky and Larry Newman, the following slate of officers for 2008 was proposed:

Don Bagshaw for Chairman, Chris Elko as Vice Chairman.

The floor was opened for nominations. Bill Kreider nominated Charles Skalsky for Chairman, but Mr. Skalsky declined. There were no more nominations and Chris Elko moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Margie Davis. Motion accepted by acclamation Skalsky, seconded by Davis. When the question was called, all those in favor of the Slate of Officers signify by saying aye, there was one vote opposed: Bill Kreider.

APPROVAL OF November 8, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Draft copies of the November 8th meeting minutes were mailed out for review and approval. There were no corrections.

A motion was made that the November minutes be accepted as presented.

Motion made: Charles Skalsky. Seconded: Margie Davis. Motion passed.

Draft copies of the December 14th meeting minutes were sent out for review and approval. There were no corrections.

A motion was made that the December minutes be approved as presented.

Motion made: Bill Kreider. Seconded: Charlie Skalsky. Motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Skalsky, member of the Prince George County Board of Supervisors, was introduced. He stated it was good to be in attendance and to see what direction the district is going.

Patrick Vincent, RC&D Council Coordinator, introduced himself.

Scott Reiter, the new Prince George Extension Agent, was also introduced, and is now on the district's board as an Associate Director.

AGENCY REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (DCR):

Carrie Hagin, CDC, provided a written report for the month of January and reviewed highlights and trainings that will be offered. Copy is attached.

- An On line orientation course is being suggested for district directors and staff. The deadline for registration is January 9th.
- January 14th is Legislative Day, and participation is encouraged.

Discussions are on-going on the identity crisis of soil and water districts and the lack of understanding about the agricultural BMPs and cost share programs they offer. A new marketing study has developed various means of advertising. One of the media ideas to educate that has been developed as part of their poster recognition advertisement is a new pamphlet. There will also be a standardized logo for all districts with room for each district to put their own name and location. This will have the same emblem and a unified look. The board is being asked to consider adopting the new logo, and this will be voted on at the next meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):

Anthony Howell provided a written report detailing trainings and meetings attended, conservation assistance and ongoing projects for the month. Copy is attached.

Anthony developed a conservation plan for James Kanusek. He converted crop land into pasture land planting 4 acres. This is a part of the State cost share program that Dan Lee is working on.

Bill Kreider made a motion to approve the conservation plan for James Kanusek. Seconded by Elko or Skalsky. Motion passed.

BUSINESS ITEMS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL:

Conservation Easement:

At the December meeting, Dan Lee presented information on the conservation easement on 26.3 acres that the district has been asked to hold for Prince George County. This is land that is being donated adjacent to a park area. Sara Richardson, DCR, attended the last meeting and talked about easements. JRSWCD agreed to hold this easement and needs to put together a committee on easements to determine a policy of what we want to do with easements if this comes up in the future.

In this particular case, this easement has gone pretty well. A baseline assessment has been done on the property with photos taken. An appraisal was done on the property, and

a representative from the County has had involvement. As far as we know, this was recorded although a copy has not yet been received.

EDUCATION:

“Living in your Watershed” Booklets

At the December meeting, the district approved a 20,000 copy run of the booklet. Mike Likins had to fill out forms to officially request \$5,000 from Chesterfield County District Improvement Funds that had been mentioned previously for the project. District improvement funds of \$1,000 were received from each magisterial district within Chesterfield. The booklets will be covered in cost, and are anticipated for completion by 2/28. Draft copies were passed out for review. Credits for donations will be listed. The goal is to make the maps within the booklets specific to each county.

A new educational initiative was presented entitled **Classroom in a Bucket**. This idea was demonstrated with a goal of providing a meaningful watershed experience to students from K-2nd grade. A request was made for resources from which to obtain larger sized buckets.

Plans for a **Rain Barrel Workshop** are ongoing. The district will be working with Susan Edwards of Chesterfield Extension, Jen Sedlick, Friends of Chesterfield Riverfront, and Heather Barrar, who is in Environmental Quality in Chesterfield County. The partnering agents will be running the project with the district having responsibility as fiscal agent. Barrels will be needed before April 11 which will be the date of the first workshop. There is an Earth Day event at Chesterfield Town Center where the first two workshops will be held. Additional workshop dates and locations were discussed as well as ways of securing and transporting the barrels.

After working in Chesterfield, a rain barrel workshop will be held in Prince George County.

FINANCE:

Approve Financial Reports:

The financial reports for November were distributed at the meeting. December's report will be the end of quarter and will be more in depth.

A motion was made that the November, 2007 financial reports be accepted as presented.

Motion made: Bill Kreider. Seconded: Charles Skalsky. Motion passed.

PERSONNEL:

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee interests

The district has standing committees and each committee's duties were reviewed. Every board member needs to chair one committee and serve on another. Typically the Chairman of the Board makes committee appointments. A request was made that board member's email or let staff know their interests, and appointments will be made at next meeting.

It was stated of the importance that committees meet regularly and do their work prior to the Board Meeting.

Meeting dates, times and locations for 2008:

A discussion was held on personal preferences of meeting dates and times. The two new directors were asked for their opinion.

A motion was made to stay on the current schedule of the first Thursday of the month. In January, February and March, to meet at 3:00 P.M. and the rest at 5:30 P.M. beginning with a light dinner and late meeting at 6:00 for the remainder of the year. The meetings will alternate between counties.

Motion made: Bill Kreider. Seconded: Charles Skalsky. Motion passed.

Scott Reiter – authorized signature on checks

Glenn Chappell, the former Extension Agent, needs to be removed as a check signature. District checks need to be approved and signed by two people, and currently these people are: Don Bagshaw, Bill Kreider and Linda McAllister.

A motion was made that Scott Reiter be authorized to sign the district checks.

Motion made: Charles Skalsky. Seconded: Bill Kreider. Motion passed.

Farmer's Breakfast:

A report was given on the Farmer's Breakfast. Attendee's names have been put into a data base. The total count was 56. Scott Reiter has reviewed their evaluations. Scott reported it was a good turn out and he had good comments on the evaluations.

Annual Meeting Report:

Dan, Suzanne and John attended the two days VASWCD Annual Meeting December 3-4. Linda spent part of one day there and did the Classroom in a Bucket education session. Staff gave brief reports on what meetings they attended and information learned.

EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Linda said at Annual Meeting, Don was elected Chairman of Area III. He will be going to all the meetings in districts of Area III and will be involved in decision making.

Thanks to Mike Roberts of the Extension office, she has been invited to attend some of the Prince George County Department head meetings which are held once a month. She stated she does not have a lot to contribute, but has a lot to learn about what is going on in the county and how the district can be involved.

Dan had left an Activity Report citing his work in November and December.
John gave an Activity Report for the month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

Scott Reiter gave a report on an upcoming conference and workshop.

He also stated Mike Roberts to form a plan for the demonstration garden to be used for educational purposes.

Scott has heard a lot of ideas and wants to know who is going to do all the work. He is looking at it from a labor perspective, wants to have things the team can easily do, things that County Maintenance can work around. Stated he does not want to make it a pulling weeds project for anybody. Dan, Linda and Patrick are on the planning committee, so it will be a team effort.

Margie Davis gave scenario on her background.

Carrie stated DCR is responsible for doing program reviews for the storm water programs for the counties. Chesterfield's program review is coming up at the end of January.

Some districts are involved in their localities either by doing inspections or project review. Nissa Dean of DCR indicated she may come to the district meeting in February and will share results of Chesterfield program review.

Chris Elko reported he grew up on a family farm in Chesterfield, tobacco and small grain, and told about his interests.

Bill Kreider reminded Linda that they had decided to make an annual report to the counties each year. Linda stated she is in the process of completing the Annual Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Charles Skalsky made a motion to adjourn until 2/7. Seconded by Chris Elko.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Thore
Program Support

Mike Likins

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